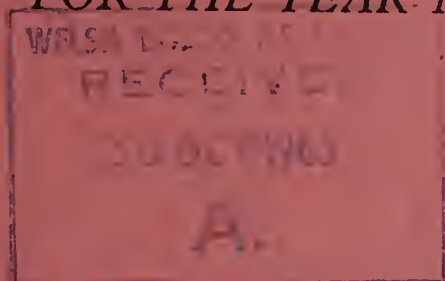


MAGOR AND ST. MELLONS
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and
Public Health Inspector

FOR THE YEAR 1962



Annual Report

of the

Medical Officer of Health

and

Public Health Inspector



FOR THE YEAR 1962

MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

PUBLIC HEALTH AND HOUSING COMMITTEE, 1962-63

Chairman : Councillor C. T. Pugh

Vice-Chairman : Councillor W. T. Stephens

Councillor	E. Bayliss.	Councillor	W. H. Sparkes.
"	A. E. Hollingdale.	"	Mrs. B. M. Stephens.
"	A. Thompson.	"	R. Davies.
"	F. W. Richards.	"	Mrs. C. M. Davies.
"	R. Phillips	"	H. M. Thomas.
"	K. G. G. Weekes.	"	Mrs. M. E. Jones.
"	H. Price.	"	A. L. Pearce.
"	W. D. Duthie.	"	A. E. Roberts.
"	E. Baker.	"	R. H. Addis.
"	H. Harris.	"	H. David.
"	D. G. Evans.	"	F. Jones.
"	W. H. Thomas.	"	Mrs. R. M. Cooper.
"	Mrs. H. B. Rees.	"	R. E. Silvey.
"	C. J. Williams	"	R. J. Shepherd.
"	J. P. Adams.	"	Mrs. D. R. Phelps.
"	G. T. Weekes.	"	C. T. Hackworthy.
"	B. O. Davies.		

Officers :

Clerk to the Council	... H. E. M. Keene, F. Comm. A.
Deputy Clerk and Chief Financial Officer	... D. C. V. Gwynn.
Medical Officer of Health	... K. P. Giles, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.
Senior Public Health Inspector	I. James, Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
Additional Public Health Inspector	... A. H. Tomkins, Cert. S.I.B., Meat and Other Foods Inspector.
Surveyor & Engineer	... H. Roberts, A.M.I.C.E.

Annual Report

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the Year ended 31st December, 1962.

To the Chairman and Members of the

MAGOR & ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit my Annual Report upon general conditions of the Public Health for the year for the Rural District of Magor and St. Mellons.

The report is drawn upon the lines indicated in Circular. 1/63 (Wales).

The New Spencer Steel Works, Llanwern.

The first part of this works has now been completed and was formally opened by her Majesty the Queen on October 26th 1962. The then Chairman of the Council was invited to be present at the opening. Included within the works are Messrs. Bitmac Ltd., Tar and Benzole Distillers, Messrs. Heggett (Richard Thomas and Baldwins Ltd.) and The British Oxygen Co. Ltd., these firms all have sites adjoining the works.

This Council has allocated a certain number of houses for key workers and these are distributed by the Spencer Works authorities.

There were some 450 families occupying caravans at the Pye Corner Site and most of these people were transferred to other sites away from this area as they completed their work.

The hostel for workmen at Pye Corner is also being concluded now.

There is a new factory for the Pasteurisation of Shell Eggs being constructed in Rogerstone alongside and working in conjunction with the Avana Cake Co. Ltd. This is the second of its kind to be built in the country, the first being in Oldham, County of Lancashire.

Site at Magor for Delivery of Cement.

This consisted of two large Silos which were erected by the Penarth Cement Co. One of these silos has been removed, and there have been no complaints from the remaining site.

Smallpox Scare.

During the early part of the year there was a smallpox scare and amongst other requests for vaccination, I was approached by the Management of the Cambrian United Dairies Ltd., at Marshfield.

I carried out this to the personnel of this company.

In addition to this, I vaccinated a very large number of persons outside the Magor and St. Mellons area.

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Population estimated for 1962	...	...	18,850
Area (consisting of 26 parishes)	...	...	43,217 acres
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	5,252
Rateable Value	...	...	£430,746
Sum represented by penny rate	...	...	£1,768

VITAL STATISTICS.

Live Births			
Number (Male 237) (Female 216)	...	...	453
Rate per 1,000 population	...	...	21.87
Illegitimate Live Births per cent. of Total Live Births...			3.53
Stillbirths			
Number (Male 2) (Female 3)	...	...	5
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	...	...	10.9
Total Live and Still-Births	...	...	458
Infant Mortality Rates			
Infant Deaths (Deaths under 1 year)	...	...	13
Total Infant deaths per 1,000 total live births	...	...	28.7
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births	...	...	27.6
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	62.5
Neo-natal Mortality Rate (Deaths under 4 weeks per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	15.45
Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate (deaths under 1 week per 1,000 total live births)	...	...	11.03
Perinatal Mortality Rate (still-births and deaths under 1 week combined per 1,000 total live and still-births)	...	...	21.59
Maternal Mortality (including abortion)—			
Number of deaths	...	...	Nil
Rate per 1,000 total live and still-births	...	...	Nil
Live Birth Rate for Monmouthshire	...	...	17.99
Live Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	18.0
Still Birth Rate for Monmouthshire	...	...	25.64
Still Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	18.1
Infant Mortality Rate for Monmouthshire	...	...	25.02
Infant Mortality Rate for England and Wales	...	...	21.6
Neo Natal Death Rate for Monmouthshire	...	...	15.82
Maternal Mortality Rate for Monmouthshire	...	...	0.47

DEATH RATE.

The number of Deaths registered during the year	...	176
(Male 90; Female 86) giving a Death Rate of	...	11.38
The Death Rate for England and Wales was	...	11.9
The Death Rate for Monmouthshire was	...	13.67

CAUSES OF DEATH

In the following table deaths are classified under the 36 headings based on the Abbreviated List of the International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death, 1948.

	M.	F.
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	Nil	Nil
Tuberculosis, other	Nil	Nil
Syphilitic Diseases	Nil	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	Nil
Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
Meningococcal Infection	Nil	Nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	Nil	Nil
Measles	Nil	Nil
Other Infective and Parasitic Diseases	Nil	Nil
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	3
Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	6	Nil
Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	Nil	2
Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	Nil	Nil
Other Malignant and Lymphatic Neoplasms... ..	8	8
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	Nil	Nil
Diabetes	Nil	Nil
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System	7	9
Coronary Disease, Angina	23	18
Hypertension with Heart Disease	Nil	2
Other Heart Disease	6	11
Other Circulatory Diseases	5	3
Influenza	Nil	2
Pneumonia	4	5
Bronchitis	10	3
Other Disease of Respiratory System	Nil	1
Ulcer of Stomach and Duodenum	1	Nil
Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea	1	1
Nephritis and Nephrosis	3	Nil
Hyperplasia of Prostate	Nil	Nil
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	Nil	Nil
Congenital Malformations	Nil	2
Other Defined and Ill-Defined Diseases	7	10
Motor Vehicle Accidents	3	2
All Other Accidents	3	3
Suicide	1	Nil
Homicide and Operations of War	Nil	Nil
	90	86

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE COUNCIL

Medical Officer of Health, two Public Health Inspectors (whole time Officers).

HOSPITAL HEALTH SERVICES, ETC.

Since 5th July, 1947, these are administered by the Regional Hospital Board.

NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE, ETC.

The Monmouthshire County Council as Local Health Authority are responsible for the arrangements and Administration of the Services under Part III of the Act.

The following is a summary of these Services:—

- (1) Care of Mothers and Young Children.
 - (2) Midwifery Services.
 - (3) Health Visiting.
 - (4) Home Nursing.
 - (5) Vaccination and Immunisation.
 - (6) Ambulance Services.
 - (7) Prevention of Illness, Care and After-Care.
 - (8) Domestic Help.
 - (9) Duties under Lunacy and Mental Treatment Act and Mental Deficiency Act.
-

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supplies and Sewerage.

It is more than possible that the Sewer Scheme will be extended from Cwmbran to Henllys.

It is hoped that a water supply will be provided early next year to the scattered dwelling situated on the Western portion of the parish of Coedkernew in close proximity to the main trunk road.

I am advised that the sewer will be provided at long last for the built up area of the parish of Marshfield.

The Council have put forward, to the Ministry, a proposal in skeleton form to pump the sewage from Llanwern, Langstone, Llanmartin, Wilcrick and Magor Parishes and including Undy in the Chepstow R.D.C. area to a disposal works for partial treatment only, near the sea wall, with discharge into the sea South of Magor.

The approval of the Ministry has not yet been given for the Eastern area scheme, but negotiations have been carried out, at their request, regarding the purchase of land for pumping stations and disposal plant.

It is anticipated that the scheme will take between three and four years to prepare and construct the works, after receiving the Ministry's approval, in principle.

Water supplies were taken over in October, 1960 by Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board. We however, still examine supplies of water from time to time and report as to their purity or otherwise.

Whilst most of the Council's area is adequately served with piped supplies the following "pockets" remain without a sufficient and generally wholesome supply: Coedycerau area of Langstone—11 dwellings: Mynydd Allt Tir Vach area of Llanvaches—15 dwellings and the Craig-Ceiliog area of Bettws—7 dwellings. Most of these dwellings are dependent on "springs or wells" the water from which is of variable quantity and quality, whilst in a few cases rain water storage tanks are utilised.

The piped supplies of water in this Rural District from water-works are "constant" and not intermittent and are not liable to plumbo-solvency action.

Work has been consistent throughout the year with regard to emptying of cesspools. The number increases year by year and the total number of cesspools within the area at the end of 1962 was 1,085. 1,534 emptyings were undertaken during the same period.

The majority of dwellings with pail or earth closets are those which belong to houses which are sub-standard, generally speaking, and the department is actively engaged in converting into water closets where possible, whilst the condemnation of premises also tends to lessen the number with the result that very few are remaining within the area.

PARTICULARS OF PIPED WATER SUPPLIES IN EACH PARISH.

A.—By Local Authority or Statutory Water Undertakers.

PARISH		Number of Dwelling Houses	Number Supplied	Estimated Population	Approximate Population Served
Rogerstone	...	1916	1893	5940	5868
Graig	...	577	554	1789	1718
Marshfield	...	297	286	921	887
St. Mellons	...	319	309	989	958
St. Brides W.	...	58	57	180	177
Peterstone W.	...	58	57	180	177
Henllys	...	108	88	335	273
Bettws	...	41	34	127	105
Michaelstone-y-Vedw	...	66	50	205	155
Langstone	...	551	537	1708	1665

PARISH		Number of Dwelling Houses	Number Supplied	Estimated Population	Approximate Population Served
Llanwern	...	105	104	326	323
Bishton	...	176	175	546	543
Kemeys Inferior	...	45	29	140	90
Llanmartin	...	100	96	310	298
Wilcrick	...	5	5	16	16
Nash	...	98	96	304	298
Goldcliffe	...	63	61	195	189
Whitson	...	20	19	62	59
Redwick	...	60	60	186	186
Penhow	...	113	99	350	307
Llandavenny	...	10	10	31	31
Magor	...	185	184	574	571
Llanvaches	...	73	34	226	105
Duffryn	...	112	104	347	322
Lower Machen	...	41	23	127	71
Coedkernew	...	55	46	171	143

B.—Private Supplies.

Rogerstone	...	As above	19	As above	59
Graig	...	„	17	„	53
Marshfield	...	„	9	„	28
Michaelstone	...	„	8	„	25
Llanvaches	...	„	16	„	49
St. Mellons	...	„	10	„	31
Lower Machen	...	„	10	„	31
Coedkernew	...	„	8	„	25
Henllys	...	„	3	„	9
Kemys Inferior	...	„	3	„	9
Llanmartin	...	„	1	„	3
Bettws	...	„	3	„	9
St. Brides	...	„	1	„	3
			5,252	5,118	16,285
				15,865	

NOTE:—

The above table does not include details of population occupying accommodation other than dwelling houses, etc.

3 licensed caravan sites at St. Brides Wentlooge with a total estimated population of 326.

Caravan site at Pye Corner, Nash, with an estimated population of 720 and 2 Hostels at Nash with an estimated total population of 732.

In addition, no account is taken of the 336 dwellings erected and occupied by Newport Corporation at the end of 1962 on land within the parish of Bettws.

HOUSING.

Number of new houses erected during the year:

(i) By the Local Authority ...	56
(ii) By other Local Authorities ...	~~Nil~~ 226
(iii) By other Bodies or persons ...	79

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS, 1955.

The Regulations came into force on 1st January, 1956, and it is now essential to bring in a substantial supply of hot water in order that hands may be frequently washed when dealing with food stuffs requiring it.

The Regulations apply to a much wider range of premises than hitherto and this provision must be complied with in relation to all premises where "a food business" is carried on. Regulations apply to all cases where food is handled whether or not there is any question of sale or exposure for sale.

In brief the Regulations require the following matters:—

- (1) The cleanliness of food premises, equipment and containers.
- (2) The protection of food from the risk of contamination.
- (3) The personal cleanliness of all persons engaged in the handling of food.
- (4) The carriage and wrapping of "open food" (i.e. food not contained in a container of such materials and so closed, as to exclude all risk of contamination).
- (5) Persons engaged in the handling of food who are suffering from certain infections, such as staphylococcal infection likely to cause food poisoning.
- (6) The provision of a clean, wholesome, adequate and constant water supply.
- (7) The provision of wash-hand basins and washing facilities for persons engaged on the handling of food.
- (8) The provision of facilities for the washing of food and equipment.

I am pleased to state that all Shops within the area serving open food have installed washing facilities with a constant supply of hot water required within the provisions of the Regulations.

MILK (SPECIAL DESIGNATION) REGULATIONS 1960.

These Regulations made by the Minister of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food and the Minister of Health came into operation on 1st October, 1960, in so far as they relate to Producer's Licences and on the 1st January, 1961, in so far as they relate to Dealer's licences.

These Regulations consolidate and re-enact with amendments the Milk (Special Designation) (Raw Milk) Regulations 1949-1954, and the Milk (Special Designation) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949-1953.

The principal changes made are as follows:—

- (i) Dealers' licences are to be granted by the Food and Drugs Authority of the area within which are situated the premises at or from which the milk is to be pasteurised, sterilised or sold as the case may be. Dealer's licences are to prevent sales outside as well as inside the area of the Licensing Authority. Supplementary Licences are to be discontinued.
- (ii) A Dealer's pre-packed milk licence is introduced to prevent the sale of all three kinds of specially designated milk where the milk is obtained by the dealer in the container in which it is to be supplied to the consumer, or is pasteurised or sterilised by the dealer.
- (iii) The period for which a dealer's licence will be granted is extended from one year to five years.
- (iv) A licence holder is no longer required to allow samples to be taken free of charge.
- (v) A herd in respect of which a producer's licence is held is allowed to run with other attested cattle or cattle from a controlled herd.
- (vi) The storage of tuberculin tested milk in a fixed tank at the farms and subsequent collection in a milk tanker is permitted, but such milk is required to be pasteurised or sterilised before sale.
- (vii) The sealing of containers (other than retail containers) of tuberculin tested milk is no longer obligatory.
- (viii) The Clot-on-Boiling test has been introduced for tuberculin tested milk to which a producer's licence relates.
- (ix) When, for the purpose of taking a sample, a person breaks the seal on a container, he must reseal the container and attach to it a label certifying that it has been opened and resealed.
- (x) The conditions of the Methylene Blue test for tuberculin tested milk and pasteurised milk are modified and a different Phosphate Test for pasteurised milk has been prescribed.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of notifiable Infectious Diseases are visited and investigated by the Public Health Inspector after the receipt of a notification. Where necessary, arrangements are made for the removal of the patient to an Isolation Hospital, if accommodation is available.

The examination of pathological and bacteriological specimens is carried out at the Laboratory. From the 24th June, 1957, the address of the Medical Research Council was altered from the County Hall, Newport, and became the Public Health Laboratory, Clytha Square, Newport, Mon.

The following are the particulars relating to Whooping Cough Immunisation, Diphtheria Immunisation and Poliomyelitis and Small-pox vaccination also Tetanus injections performed during the year 1962 in respect of the Council's area:—

POLIOMYELITIS—ORAL VACCINE

			1st	2nd	3rd oral after two salk	4th oral after two salk
Langstone	...	...	8	8	12	17
St. Mellons	...	...	—	—	10	6
Mobile Van	...	...	—	—	4	12
Newport	...	...	—	—	300	112

DIPHTHERIA

Date of Birth Year	Primary	Booster
1962	89	—
1961	153	1
1960	19	5
1959	6	5
1958	7	5
1953/57	18	170
1948/52	25	94
TOTAL ...	<u>317</u>	<u>280</u>

WHOOPING COUGH

Date of Birth

Year

1962	89
1961	153
1960	12
1959	1
1958	4
1953/1957	1
1948/1952	1
	261

SMALLPOX VACCINATION 1962.

Age at date of

Vaccination		Vaccinated	re-vaccinated
Under 1 year		47	—
1 year		34	—
2 - 4 years		33	1
5 - 14 years		135	41
15 or over		117	189
Total		366	231

NOTE:—

During the smallpox outbreak at the beginning of the year several thousand people were vaccinated or re-vaccinated under emergency arrangements, but no classified figures are available for these.

TETANUS IMMUNISATIONS.

Date of Birth	Primary	Booster
1962	89	—
1961	153	1
1960	15	5
1959	20	—
1958	17	—
1957	10	—
1956	7	1
1955	3	—
1954	2	—
1953	2	—
1952	—	—
1951	—	—
1950	2	—
1949	1	—
1948	3	—
1947 or before	8	2
Total	332	9

Notifiable Diseases.

Analysis of Total Cases and Deaths from Infectious Diseases, according to Age Groups for 1962.

DISEASE	Cases Notified.					Age Groups.					Deaths.					Age Groups.					Admitted to Hospital						
	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15	15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total all ages	Under 1 yr.	1-2	2-3	3-4	4-5	5-10	10-15		15-20	20-35	35-45	45-65	65 & over	Total all ages
Diphtheria ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Scarlet Fever ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enteric Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Pneumonia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cerebro Spinal Fever ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Mild Poliomyelitis ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Enceph, Lethargica ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Dysentery	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Ophthalmia Neonatorum ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Measles and German Measles	1	3	2	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Whooping Cough ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Other Diseases ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Erysipelas ...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1
Meningococcal ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	1	4	1	2	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	4	16	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1

Tuberculosis is not included in this summary.

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during 1962

Age groups	New Cases					Deaths				
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.		M.	F.	M.	F.	
0-1 years	...	1	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
1-5 "	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
5-15 "	...	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
15-25 "	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
25-35 "	...	1	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
35-45 "	...	2	...	1	1	...	...	...	...	...
45-65 "	2	...	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	...
65 and up	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	...	...	...
Total	4	4	...	1	9	—	—	—	—	—

TUBERCULOSIS.

The incidence of new cases of Tuberculosis compares favourably with other areas. Generally speaking, there is a marked decline in the number of cases throughout the country and it is hoped that this decline will continue.

FOOD POISONING.

There were no cases of Food Poisoning reported during the year.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

KENNETH P. GILES, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health,

Council Offices,

Baneswell,

Newport, Mon.

Telephone: Newport 64181.

MAGOR AND ST. MELLONS RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Report of the Public Health Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Magor and St. Mellons Rural District Council.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Much emphasis was given during the past year by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government on the important subject of Housing with special reference to the bringing up of the old houses to a satisfactory standard by the provision of the essential amenities and to a large extent the prolonging of their life.

The houses are often structurally sound but fast becoming obsolete because of poor layout and lack of modern amenities. A great deal of work has been done, but there is still much more to be carried out in this field as particularly in rural areas where quite often there is something of our national heritage that should be preserved.

Improvement grants are the best property investment the government and local authority can make. To halt the deterioration of property before it becomes fit for demolition some measure of financial help is a much better proposition than doing nothing until the only solution is to erase to the ground. It appears that the Improvement Grant campaign had lost its impetus and it was felt that more attention should be drawn towards the scheme.

Strange as it may seem it is remarkable that so few landlords are taking advantage of the constant offers of grants to improve their properties especially as they would safeguard their investments.

The Ministry felt that a large increase in the number of houses for improvement should have resulted in the past inasmuch as the owners received financial assistance by way of grant. In order to speed up the rate of application, the Minister was convinced that there was a need for a systematic and personal approach—tackling the problem by improving streets or areas of older properties rather than by individual houses as and when grant was applied for. As

a result of the request, Mr. A. H. Tomkins, Additional Public Health Inspector was assigned to carry out, during the latter end of the year, the personal approach aspect on a full time basis for a certain period. It is too soon to calculate the degree of response but it is hoped that next year will bear the fruit of the action taken by the definite increase in the number of grants sanctioned by the Council.

Distasteful though it may be, the only answer may yet prove to be compulsory improvement.

4 Standard and 33 Discretionary Grants were approved during the year.

A significant feature during the course of inspections has been the large and increasing number of elderly people living on their own and bringing with them problems which involve a great deal of attention by the department. It is doubtful whether any legislation or any other circumstance will rectify these sad conditions. Too often I have found an elderly person living alone and unable to fend for himself or herself until these unsatisfactory conditions have attracted the attention of the outside world, resulting in the discovery of loneliness with lack of mental and physical powers to cope with the strenuous level of every day life.

It is generally considered desirable that elderly people should be permitted and encouraged to retain their independence for as long as possible in their own homes. They require, like the rest of the community, affection and security. Where domestic circumstances fail, the individual becomes a social problem and much should be done for those incapable of fully maintaining themselves before going so far as to admit them into homes. Here, I must praise the Welfare Department of the Monmouthshire County Council for the great amount of human kindness that they have afforded to these unfortunate people. I have been satisfied on all occasions they have done everything humanly possible to stimulate in these people the desire to live a normal life as good citizens in their own homes before going so far as to admit them into Welfare homes.

The four atmospheric stations within the area were satisfactorily maintained and the usual daily visit made by the personnel of the Public Analyst's Department. Generally speaking from reports submitted it appears that for 1962, the volumetric results for smoke show a small but significant increase, whilst the volumetric SO₂ figures show an overall decrease over the area. The deposit gauge figures show little change at Langstone, Llanmartin and Magor but an increase at Llanwern and the lead peroxide SO₂ figures show a small increase at all stations.

The infestation of dwelling houses by bed bugs and fleas are now a rare occurrence. It is evident that the general high standard of cleanliness has been a marked effect on the greater majority of the people. The people are now hygiene conscious but unfortunately we will always have with us the problem family who cannot create even a reasonable standard.

Once again I make comment on the mobile food traders. Whilst many of them obviously provide a valuable service particularly in rural areas, there seems little reason for their being exempt from so many of the provisions which govern the activities of the trader occupying a shop.

I have for a long time been concerned at the standard required and reached for mobile traders and would welcome a further tightening up of legislation. On frequent occasions I have visited an estate and found many vehicles stationary and become overcrowded with customers giving rise to a potential danger of personal contact with food by an innocent carrier of disease by the indiscriminate handling of the intended purchase.

I find it quite easily to accept that not only apart from the basic hygiene requirements, the opportunity for the driver who in most cases handles the food, to get dirty more quickly than the person who occupies shop premises.

Mobile food shops, in my opinion, should be registered with the Local Authority in whose area they operate and that standards of hygiene should be prescribed which Councils should regard as a prerequisite of registration. Registration has been limited up to the present to certain specified premises, for example the preparation and sale of cooked meat and that of ice-cream.

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS.

The following is a summary of work carried out as a result of 31 informal and 8 abatement notices served upon the owners concerned:—

Number of walls made damp proof	...	...	37
„ „ sash cords provided to windows	...		24
„ „ windows and window frames repaired			31
„ „ roofs repaired	...	...	36
„ „ gutterings and downpipes repaired	...		24
„ „ doors repaired and renewed	...		11
„ „ floors repaired or relaid	...	...	21
„ „ ceilings repaired	...	...	12
„ „ skirting boards repaired	...	...	16
„ „ chimneys repaired		...	13
„ „ sinks provided	...	...	14
„ „ W.C. cisterns, flush pipes and service water pipes	...	...	17
„ „ W.C. pans and W.C. structures repaired or renewed	...	...	35
„ „ grates repaired or renewed	...		20
„ „ cesspools made good	...	...	17
„ „ new cesspools provided	...	...	10
„ „ drains relaid	...	...	5
„ „ new drains provided	...	...	8

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

Whenever anyone mentions rat infestation it immediately gives a reaction of challenge to the preservation of a satisfactory way of life. The presence of rats means an exceedingly strong front against decent living conditions. In order to combat this, one has to be on the alert at all times with one thought in mind to destroy, otherwise the vermin could well disorganise the peaceful existence of mankind.

The rat without doubt will flourish where hygiene conditions are not as they should be and infestation can easily and quickly occur but not so easily eradicated. For sewer work the old poisons are now being replaced with acute poisons and the use of Fluoroacetamide is well coming to the fore. There was reluctance to its use because of its high degree of toxicity, it being for example 4 times as toxic as Zincphosphide. Emphasis must be laid on the careful handling necessary when using the poison. It is my intention of using Fluoroacetamide next year in the treatment of sewers throughout the area. The use of this poison in normal circumstances is acceptable to rats without the necessity of prebaiting and in the long run will save time and expense in the process of elimination.

Apart from the sewer treatment and the periodical refuse tip treatments the work of the rodent operative is taken up in dealing with in the main, domestic complaints and infestations, and a few business treatments for which a reasonable charge is made.

During the year 440 private and other premises were treated with satisfactory results. 15 routine treatments were carried out at the refuse tips.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

All cases of notified infectious diseases were visited and investigated and terminal disinfection carried out when necessary.

Visits made	...	...	16
Houses disinfected	...	...	5
Patients removed to hospital	...	...	2

WATER SUPPLIES.

Number of houses supplied from public water mains:—

(i) Direct to the houses	..	5001
(ii) By means of stand-pipes	..	9

PIPED SUPPLIES.

16 samples of treated supplies were submitted for bacteriological examination 13 of which were satisfactory. These samples were taken from the Cardiff City and Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board.

A further 21 samples of untreated supplies were also submitted for bacteriological examination out of which 15 were unsatisfactory. 253 connections from The Newport and South Monmouthshire Water Board mains were carried out during the year; of this number 251 were to new houses occupied during the year.

SHOPS ACT, 1950.

No action was taken during the year under the Shops Act, 1950, relating to sanitary and other arrangements in shops.

SLAUGHTER OF ANIMALS AND SLAUGHTERHOUSES.

There are 8 butchers shops within the area. There are no licensed private slaughterhouses, the meat for sale in these shops being collected from neighbouring public and private slaughterhouses.

1 application was received for a licence to slaughter pigs only, which was granted by the Council.

THE CARAVAN SITES AND CONTROL OF DEVELOPMENT ACT 1960

Licensing authorities have had their problems eased to a certain extent by the Caravan Sites and Development Act 1960 but to a rural district it is still a problem of some magnitude when dealing with the single caravan application.

The siting of caravans cannot be entertained until Planning permission has been sought and obtained. Should this prove to be negative, the question of licence does not arise as the granting depends primarily not on the fact that the applicant must provide the necessary and essential amenities for a satisfactory way of life but he has firstly to fulfil the Town and Country Planning requirements.

Much time is involved in dealing with persons, who on the one hand do not enter their way of thinking and with no intention of seeking permission, before stationing their caravan, whilst other persons, because of circumstances beyond their control, are reluctantly obliged to seek any site as a temporary measure. They place their caravans on commons, waste ground and verges; places usually without sanitary facilities and generally unsatisfactory giving rise to complaint on grounds of nuisance and unsightliness. To secure their removal may result in severe hardship. Moving people from one unauthorised site and leaving them to find another site is no solution and no answer to the human and social problems involved.

The three established sites at St. Brides were visited periodically during the year and I found no contravening condition of significance which warranted my reporting to the Health and Housing Committee.

20 applications were received during the year 19 of which were renewed and/or granted until 31st December, 1962.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

No legal proceedings were instituted during the year.

ICE-CREAM (HEAT TREATMENT, ETC.)

REGULATIONS, 1947-1952.

The control over the sale of ice cream was maintained and regular visits were made of registered premises and the usual inspection of mobile vehicles used solely for the purpose of sale of Ice-cream.

The ice-cream is prepared and manufactured by well known manufacturers and delivered to the registered premises. All ice-cream is prepacked before delivery and sale.

The Regulations state that where ice-cream is sold to the public, it has to be kept at a temperature of not more than 28°F since it was frozen, or if its temperature has risen above 28°F be again subjected to the temperature mentioned. It must afterwards be kept at a temperature of not more than 28°F.

Equally important, steps must be taken to ensure that the ice-cream is protected from contamination by dust, dirt, etc., at all times during manufacture, storage and distribution.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

The sale of food today depends on a clean, well designed premises and a staff that, to say the least, acknowledge and accept and puts into practice the essential principles of food handling. These conditions have, in the main, obliterated the small dingy corner shop of the past and have led to the customers demanding better conditions of sale which points to that which is desired by statute.

However, since the passing of the Food and Drugs Act 1955 and the making of the Food Hygiene Regulations there have been lectures, film shows, etc., on the subject of food hygiene, given to persons engaged in handling, yet there are many food handlers, who are indifferent to education and coercion.

Many provisions contained in the Hygiene Regulations are very definite as to contravention. There is one, I feel mention should be made, and that is the prohibition of smoking in rooms where food is sold, stored or prepared. On various occasions I have found in the course of my inspection evidence of personnel leaving their trade mark of burnt woodwork on window cills thus showing that some time or other smoking has occurred. I have on a few occasions found persons actually smoking whilst handling food. Need'ess to say they were warned that should there be re-occurrence legal action would be resorted to without hesitation. It only proves that these people treat very lightly the danger that is involved from a public health point of view and having no regard to the elementary principles involved. It is of little wonder when in these days the tobacco habit is encouraged by mass advertising and I feel that, happily in the minority of cases, the regulations prohibiting smoking is only adhered to when the Public Health Department is within close call.

Generally speaking the conditions in the area were satisfactory and only in a few cases was it found necessary to warn food handlers of the contravention incurred due in most cases to the human element.

Some concentration was given during the year to public houses within the area. There is little doubt that in many parts of the country the standards of hygiene and sanitation, particularly in rural areas, leave much to be desired in this day and age. However the point has now been reached where the regular customers, normally slow to change their ideas, are now demanding better standards, particularly to sanitary conveniences. People have been more ready to complain, demanding better facilities.

There are 36 public houses within the area and I must hasten to state that, except for one or two exceptions, the standard is of a very high one. With the exceptional cases, negotiations are now in hand to carry out the necessary alterations and incidental work to bring them in line with the majority. From my own experience most brewers are alive to the fact that their houses must be brought up to a high standard. An up to date house will pay dividends with increasing sales.

From a structural point of view very little is left to be desired but one important factor from a public health point of view I find, whilst making inspections, is the nuisance arising out of one important circumstance—namely ventilation. Licensed premises rely on the opening and closing of windows, a haphazard method of air change that depends on the whims of customers. The humidity within the lounges and bars is definitely felt by staff and customers alike. The atmospheric conditions are such that I feel that there is a high possibility of drink becoming contaminated. The importance of air movement does not appear to be so appreciative as the admission of outside air and often air that causes draught results in the customers closing windows. I feel that fans are either insufficient or not suitably placed and too much reliance is placed upon the external air for movement within the building.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

The main legislation concerned with the control of milk supplies are principally the Food and Drugs Act. The Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries are the responsible body for the issue of Tuberculin Tested milk, Producers Licences and the Food and Drugs Authority, namely the Mon. County Council is responsible for the issue of dealer's licences for the sale of designated milk.

The long established factory at Marshfield was frequently visited during the year as essential work is involved in the handling and processing of milk with the ultimate view of pasteurisation and bottling.

It is evident that the management are aware of their statutory obligations to the public and always ready to discuss and co-operate at all times should any circumstances arise that would effect the sale of milk which is not of the nature or quality demanded.

However, dirty milk bottles and bottles containing foreign bodies of various kinds are among the main offence against food hygiene reported to Local Authorities. In many cases it is impossible to avoid feeling some sympathy with the persons involved with the sale

to the consumer. A glance into the back gardens of housing estates and other areas and sites where buildings of any size is in the processing of being carried out, reveals large number of bottles discarded and misused by the public. When these bottles are returned to the dairyman, proper cleansing is impossible and the least failure of vigilance on the part of the persons involved in such cleansing and sterilizing may result in their return to circulation and in turn may lead to a prosecution. But perhaps this unsatisfactory state of affairs could be answered in the future by the installation of milk packing machines, as serious attempts are being made and meeting with increasing success, although problems of economics and filling still remain. The main arguments are that the cartons are hygienic, easy to handle and also to dispose of. From the public health point of view the cartons have the advantage that only once it is used. However the question of cost remains well in front, but I have no doubt in my mind that the nuisance arising from dirty bottles will ultimately fade away and once again one will be able to look around without seeing the well known discarded bottle casually thrown away and left about to denote a sign of the past.

40 samples were submitted during the year for bacteriological examination.

HOUSE REFUSE.

A weekly collection in all parishes is being undertaken by the the Council.

Disposal is by means of tipping at Bettws and Magor, and occasioned no serious nuisances.

In addition to the regular routine treatment in connection with rodent control, both tips were given dressings with D.D.T. base during the summer months in order to control insects pests.

I remain,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

I. JAMES,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

**Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the year 1962,
for the Rural District of Magor & St. Mellons in the County of
Monmouth.**

Prescribed particulars on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937.

**1.—INSPECTION FOR PURPOSES OF PROVISIONS
AS TO HEALTH.**

(including Inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises 1	M/c line No. 2	Number on Register 3	Number of		
			Inspections 4	Written Notices 5	Occupier Prosecuted 6
1. - Factories in which Sections 1, 2 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	1	2		...	...
2.—Factories not included in (1) to which Section 7 applies	2	47		...	...
3.—Other Premises under the Act (excluding out-workers' premises.)	3	16		...	...
Total		65		...	...

2.—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars. 1	M/c Line No. 2	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which pro- secutions were instituted 7
		Found 3	Remedied 4	Referred to H.M. Inspector 5	by H.M. Inspector 6	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	...	...	...	...	...
Overcrowding (S.2) ...	5	..	...	...	...	...
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	6	...	...	...	...	...
Inadequate Ventilation (S.4)	7	...	...	...	...	...
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	8	...	...	...	...	...
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)						
(a) Insufficient ...	9	2	2	...	..	...
(b) Unsuitable or Defective	10	3	3	...	...	...
(c) Not separate for sexes	11	...	...	...	...	...
Other offences (not including offences relating to homework)	12	...	...	...	...	...
Total		5	5	...	...	...

